



SPC/GEF-R2R/RPSC.2.Inf.4

Date: 24th July 2017

Original: English

2nd Regional Programme Steering Committee Meeting for the GEF/SPC/UNDP Project Entitled: “Ridge to Reef – Testing the Integration of Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries”

Nuku’alofa, Tonga, 31st July – 4th August, 2017

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE (MSC) TRAINING

1. Introduction

A significant focus of the Regional R2R Programme is on knowledge sharing and gathering best practices and lessons learned. The Most Significant Change technique is identified in the regional IW R2R Project prodoc as a monitoring and evaluation tool as well as a technique to gauge the impact of project activities within the Regional R2R IW Project. The overarching strategic results framework relates to the achievement of the following

Outcome 3.2 - coordinated approaches for r2r integrated land, water, forest and coastal management and climate change adaptation achieved in 14 pics

The related indicator and target are as follows:

Indicator 3.2.4 - Number of inter-ministry committee members meeting within the 4 pilot PICs that is engaged in learning and change in perception through participatory techniques

Target 3.2.4 - At least 20 ICM members total from the 4 pilot PICs (sub-regional, mix of high island, atoll settings) gauge in learning, leading to change in perception through participatory techniques.

To initiate this activity regional training will be provided to IW and STAR managers on Saturday 5th of August 2017. This training will be held at the Tanoa Dateline Hotel from 9am – 4pm. It is compulsory for IW R2R Project Managers and highly recommended for STAR R2R Project Managers to attend as it contributes to capacity building in project management.

2. What is MSC?

A form of qualitative, participatory monitoring and evaluation

MSC is a form of participatory monitoring and evaluation. It is participatory because many project stakeholders are involved both in deciding the sorts of change to be recorded and in analysing the data. It is a form of monitoring because it can occur throughout the program cycle and provides information to help people manage the program. It contributes to evaluation because it provides data on impact and outcomes that can be used to help assess the performance of the program as a whole.

Not a standalone approach to monitoring and evaluation

Whilst MSC is a very powerful tool, it is not used as a standalone tool for monitoring and evaluation for accountability purposes. It is best seen as a very powerful supplementary tool for accountability based systems.

No indicators are used

Unlike conventional approaches to monitoring, the MSC approach does not employ quantitative indicators, and because of this is sometimes referred to as 'monitoring without indicators'.

Developed by Davies in 1996

MSC was originally developed by Rick Davies through his work with a savings and credit project in Bangladesh in 1994 (Davies, 1996). The process was later refined by Jess Dart (Dart, 1999) who called it the 'Story Approach' due to the focus on the collection of stories.

Now used in many sectors

MSC is now widely used in the international development sector. It can also be found across most Government sectors in Australia and New Zealand including agricultural extension, education, and community health. It is used by small community groups to large corporate organisations. There is an active email group with about 800 members.

3. Learning Outcomes from one day workshop:

By the end of the workshop participants will:

1. Be familiar with the origins and theory behind MSC
2. Understand the purpose and different uses of MSC
3. Know the key steps to implement MSC and be able to apply it to their own context

4. About the trainer

Clear Horizon training consultant Marty Pritchard has worked in international development since 2002. He has worked in Afghanistan (2002-2004, 2009-2011), Sudan (2005-2006) and with partner organisations in many countries across Asia and Africa while based in Australia or NZ.

Marty's interest in monitoring and evaluation was sparked by experiencing firsthand the struggles of achieving good monitoring and evaluation systems that are useful for program performance, and reporting to key stakeholders. Marty has a Masters Degree in Evaluation from Melbourne University.

Marty's interests lie in community development, humanitarian need and organisational development – particularly in small organisations. He focuses on helping people articulate their results in ways that are relevant to them. He loves learning, enjoys facilitation and building relationships with people in the process.

